

CLAS Finance Committee
September 24, 2021

Present:

John Palmer (chair)
Thomas Knight
José Ponciano Castellanos
Tarek Saab
Jorge Valdes
Galia Hataf
Matthew Felt
Chris McCarty (Assoc. Dean)
Uma Sethuram (Dean's Office)
Dan Talman
Catherine Tucker (secretary)
Fahad Qazi (Student Rep)

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Meeting called to order at 3:02
 - Meeting minutes from Sept 19, 2021 approved unanimously without amendment
2. Update on the charge to the Committee from CLAS Dean's Office. (McCarty)
 - New Charge: Committee is charged with recommending how to allocate/ redistribute the ~\$17 million of OPS (Other Personnel Services) funding across PhD-generating and non-PhD generating units in the College (includes the Dean's office).
 - The base OPS is expected to remain relatively stable (~ \$17 million). The change from the last meeting regards the temporary block funding from the Provost's office and Grad School (\$2 million and \$1.35 million). These will help with "bridging the gap" due to the loss of DL funds and Grad School budget changes. These funds stay in the College as a reserve to address unforeseeable problems or needs that may arise]
 - Additional Context: it is not yet clear at this time how GSFs will evolve.
3. Discussion of the information and data required by the Committee.
 - McCarty presents a preliminary (draft) Analysis of Department spreadsheet as an overview. Data points by Dept include: #grad students, # undergrad majors, credit hours, 2020 RCM revenue, number of faculty, RCM per faculty, DSP awards, DSP awards per faculty, etc.
 - Base allocation of OPS has been stable for 10+ years. This is the number that we need to assess and consider how to adjust as fairly and transparently as possible
 - The base allocation data (Column L) is the amount to be redistributed/reallocated.
 - We need to consider which departmental indicators/metrics, along with other relevant considerations, are needed for informing our OPS reallocation recommendations.
4. Discussion of how to proceed with review of competed OPS Budget Request templates.
 - Departments are currently responding to questions about their OPS Budget Request spreadsheet data so that the information will be comparable and consistent.
 - The spreadsheets will hopefully be ready soon
 - OPS in the College prioritizes two purposes:
 - Satisfying mission of teaching undergraduates
 - Recruiting graduate students to support research
 - Committee comments:

- It would be helpful to have this departmental analysis data available
 - We all agree that we will not share the Departmental Analysis data with anyone outside of this committee (All hands raised in agreement)
- It would be helpful to have over time data for certain data to see how OPS needs may be changing in departments. This will be decided at the next meeting.
 - For example: # majors, # grad students, # SCH (Student Credit Hours), # faculty
- More precise data would be helpful for departments with more than one major.
 - Example 1: Sociology and Criminology majors
 - Example 2: Greater specificity for LLC – distributions across languages
- Helpful to get a 3-year frame for some data such as special additional allocations or returns of OPS funding. However: Some departments had benefitted from DL fees and were formerly able to return a portion of their OPS funds to the College. But now they will need more OPS since they have lost DL fees.
 - This includes Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology
- Goal for next meeting: settle on what additional data the committee wishes to request of the College.

5. Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 pm